

UNCLASSIFIED

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PTQ8707

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)PAGE 01 CARACA 00103 01 OF 04 102242Z
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	COME-00
	CTME-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	PERC-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	E-00	FAAE-00	VC-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	CAC-00	VCE-00
	AC-01	DCP-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OMB-01	PA-00
	PC-01	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	USIE-00	ASDS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/012W	

-----237E0C 102243Z /38

O 102131Z JAN 03
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9532
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELIZE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GRENADA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
USCINCSO MIAMI FL PRIORITY

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NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 04 CARACAS 000103

TREASURY FOR OASIA/INL - AARON JONES
NCS FOR LLORENS
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
STATE PASS USAID FOR DCHA/OTI - ULLIRICH AND PORTER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/10/2013
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, ECON, ASEC, CASC, OAS, VE
SUBJECT: VENEZUELA: POLITICAL UPDATE JANURY 10, 2003

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR CHARLES S. SHAPIRO FOR REASONS 1.5(B) AND (D)

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SUMMARY:

B1

) - (C) THE GOV ANNOUNCED IT WOULD DELAY THE TRANSFER OF
CONTROL OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE (MP) BACK TO THE MAYOR OF
CARACAS.

B1

-- (U) A GRENADE EXPLODED IN FRONT OF THE ALGERIAN EMBASSY
LATE JANUARY 9. VICE PRESIDENT RANGEL URGED THE USG TO
RECOGNIZE THE OPPOSITION AS TERRORISTS. OPPOSITION RUMORS
PERSIST THAT THE ATTACK WAS PART OF THE GOV,S PLAN SMEAR THE
OPPOSITION.

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END SUMMARY.

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	COME-00
	CTME-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	PERC-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	E-00	FAAE-00	VC-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	CAC-00	VCE-00
	AC-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OMB-01	PA-00	PC-01
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	STR-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02
	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/011W			

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O 102131Z JAN 03
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9533
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELIZE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GRENADA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY
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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 04 CARACAS 000103

TREASURY FOR OASIA/INL - AARON JONES
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GOV DELAYS TRANSFER OF METROPOLITAN POLICE

4. (U) THE GOV ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 9 THAT IT WOULD DELAY BY AT LEAST THREE WEEKS THE RETURN OF CONTROL OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE (MP) TO THE MAYOR OF CARACAS. THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE (TSJ) ISSUED A RULING IN DECEMBER RETURNING CONTROL OF THE MP TO CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES AFTER PRESIDENT HIGO CHAVEZ DECLARED IT UNDER MILITARY CONTROL. MINISTER OF INTERIOR DIOSDADO CABELLO ANNOUNCED ON BEHALF OF VENEZUELA'S SECURITY COUNCIL THAT THE GOV WOULD DELAY IMPLEMENTING THE COURT'S ORDER UNTIL IT COULD CORRECT THE CRISIS OF AUTHORITY IN THE PM. VICE MINISTER OF INTERIOR FOR CITIZEN SECURITY ALCIDES RONDON TOLD THE MEDIA THAT THE GOV WOULD USE THE TIME TO LAUNCH AN INVESTIGATION INTO WHAT THE GOV HAS CALLED AN ILLEGAL USE OF ARMS BY PM OFFICERS DURING POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS. THE GOV ALSO SAID IT WOULD ISSUE A REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS AND NEGOTIATE WITH DISSIDENT

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OFFICERS BEFORE IT COMPLIES WITH THE COURT ORDER.

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	COME-00
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	EB-00	EUR-00	E-00	FAAE-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	CAC-00	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01
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	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	STR-00	USIE-00	ASDS-00	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00
	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/012W		

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O 102131Z JAN 03
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9534
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELIZE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
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EACH SIDE SUSPECTS THE OTHER IN GRENADE AT ALGERIAN EMBASSY

6. (U) A GRENADE EXPLODED IN FRONT OF THE ALGERIAN EMBASSY IN CARACAS LATE JANUARY 9, RESULTING IN MINOR PROPERTY DAMAGE AND NO INJURIES. EARLIER, OPPOSITION AND LABOR LEADERS HAD PUBLICLY BEMOANED THE USE OF OIL TANKER REPLACEMENT CREWS WHO SOME SUSPECT HOLD ALGERIAN PASSPORTS. IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT JANUARY 10, VICE PRESIDENT RANGEL DENOUNCED THE "TERRORIST" ATTACK ON THE ALGERIAN EMBASSY AND URGED THE USG TO RECOGNIZE AND DENOUNCE THE OPPOSITION AS TERRORISTS. HOWEVER, RUMORS PERSIST IN OPPOSITION CIRCLES THAT THE GRENADE ATTACK WAS PART OF THE GOV,S ALLEGED &OPERACION BOMBILLA,8 A PLAN DESIGNED TO CREATE THE APPEARANCE THAT THE OPPOSITION IS TO BLAME FOR ATTACKS.

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	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	E-00	FAAE-00	VC-00	H-01
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